CHICANA LITERATURE THROUGH THE POSTCOLONIAL LENSES: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SELECT TEXTS OF SANDRA CISNEROS

A research proposal Submitted to

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTHMARATHAWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

For admission to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English

Under the faculty of Humanities

Research Scholar

Jayshri Sidram Biradar

M.A, M.Phil (English)

Research Supervisor

Dr. M. M. Nivargi

M.A. M.Phil, Ph.D

Professor Mahatma Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedpur

Research Centre

Mahatma Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedpur, dist- Latur, Maharashtra, India.

March 2022

TITLE: Chicana Literature through the Postcolonial Lenses: A Critical Analysis with Special Reference to select texts of Sandra Cisneros.

INTRODUCTION:

Post colonialism:

Post colonialism is a broader term to study the effects of colonialism on cultures and societies. At the very first colonizers spread all over the world as per the business purpose but later colonizers expansion, influence was there during last four hundred years over the colonies. That system carried inherent notions of racial inferiority and exotic otherness. Post colonialism is a critical academic study of the cultural, political and economic legacy of colonialism and imperialism, focusing on the impact of human control and exploitation of colonized people and their lands. It is critical theory analysis of the history, culture, literature, and discourse of imperial power. In post colonial literature, the critic's analyses, that identity of colonized ones that is social and cultural perspective of the subalterns' and then it has started resistance to the culture of the colonizers. Postcolonial study also includes countries, who are minorities, or countries that have yet to achieve independence or people in first world that now intended with "neo-colonial" form. How gender, class and race functions in colonial and postcolonial era?. European nations controlled and conquered "third world". And that impacts on culture, education of subaltern nations. Post colonialism is a study of political and cultural change has gone and continued. At the very initial stage it has seemed social, psychological, and cultural inferiority enforced being in a colonized state. Colonized people, struggles for ethnic, political and cultural autonomy. Colonizers considers, colonized people are always been inferior to them and should remain subordinate than them. Following postcolonial aspects has tried to study with the works of Sandra Cisneros' Colonialism, Rewriting History, Colonial discourses, Appropriation of colonial languages, Struggles of decolonized, Fight for own rights and search for cultural identity.

Key terms in Postcolonial theory: Diaspora, ethnicity, exoticism, hybridism, identity, languages etc.

Author, Sandra Cisneros is a Mexican- American writer, born on Dec.20, 1954 in Chicago. She was third of seven children. Her first novel "The House on Mango Street"(1984) and short story collection 'woman Hollering creek and other stories' (1991) these are best

known. Her work experiments with literature terms and investigation subject such as cultural hybrid ties and economic inequality that leads her to tell unique stories. She got several awards including a national endowment for the Art's fellowship and remained key figure in Chicana literature. Cisneros experienced too much in her early childhood. There was a Constant migration of her family between Mexican and U.S. Travelling with both countries but not belonging to any particular culture impacts on her writing. Cisneros's works deal with identity of Chicana challenges namely as Mexican and Anglo – America and experiencing poverty. She has achieved recognition for beyond Chicana and Latino communities. She has held a variety of professional positions, working as art's administrator and has maintained a strong commitment in community through literature way. Cisneros one strong female influence was her mother, Elvira, was a voracious reader and more enlightened and socially conscious than her father. Her biculturalism and bilingualism are very important aspects of her personal experiences and observation of people in her community. Her writing also has been influential shaping both chicana and feminist literature. Cisneros' main intention was that to bring out the women to the center as protagonists in much of her work. Quintana states that, Cisneros writing is accessible for both Anglo and Mexican - American same way it's free from anger or accusation, [resenting the issues (such as gender inequalities in Chicana literature) in approachable way.

Cisneros' Writing Style:

Cisneros is Bilingual author. She often interprets Spanish into her English writing. Spanish brings to her colorful expressions as well as different attitude and style. Cisneros's fiction comes in various forms-as novels, poems and short stories through that she challenges social experiences of Chicanos'. Some critics have observed that Cisneros tackles complex theoretical and social issues through the ordinary and simple situation. Through her writing one can find out the female sexuality and quest for self identity and with also the construction of Chicana identity.

The term Chicana or Chicano is a chosen identity of Mexican- American in the United States (US). Term widely became used during the Chicano movement, mainly among the people of Mexican and American, they wanted to express an identity, of cultural, ethnic and pride for community.

Chicano literature tends to focus on theme of identity, discrimination, culture and

history of Mexican- American people that emphasis experiences and culture in the united states. It also associated with social and culture claims of the Chicano movement. Chicanos express and represent themselves and also have voice of social critiques' and protest. The other important theme is that experience of migration and the situation of living between two languages. Chicano literature has written in English and Spanish or a combination of two: Spanglish. Chicano culture has been focused on the question of self identity. Its origin can be traced back to the sixteenth century but Chicano literature dated from after 1848 in Mexican-American war. After the war Mexican - American developed social interrelationship between both cultures. It's new form of culture of both but also different inn ways from each. The Chicano culture, which is expressed in literature as well as other practices and genres, it has been shaped by migration of Mexicans coming to the USA in the $19^{th,}$ 20^{th} twenty-first century. The difference between Chicano & Chicana is that, Chicano means the peoples who have the citizenship of America but having Mexican origin, especially a male. And Chicana means A Mexican –American woman or girl. Chicano movement formed as a result of educational inequality that Mexican Americans faced during this period. Chicana feminist movement started to take shape in 1970 against the Chicano movement. The movement focused on political, social & gender inequality. In May 1971 this movement took issues such abolition of abortion, equal access to education, the establishment of child care centers of traditional marriages, sexuality and gender inequality. The prominent Chicana authors include Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo, Denise Chaves, Lorna Dee Carvantes, Cherrie Margo and Gloria Anzaldua. Many Chicana authors shared their experience through this literary theory and it becomes essential part of both CHICANO/CHICANA & literary studies.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The proposed study includes the study postcolonial theory and multiethnic literature. Colonizers ruled the minds of colonized people and how the colonized people became aware about this, how they rescued by themselves by the thinking colonizers. The proposed research survey is postcolonial study with special reference of Chicano people as well as Chicanas, women in their minority group. In this research, subaltern theory has been studied with the study of literary theorist and feminist critic, Gayri Chakravorty Spivak, a best known critic in postcolonial literature and theory. Here we are studying, the impact colonization on postcolonial history, economy, culture, science. In the writing of Cisneros, one can observe, the study of cultural productions of colonized societies, feminism, and post

colonialism and the relationship between aesthetic and politics in literature. Women characters in Cisneros' works seem in tantrum like quest for self-existence, their fight for basic rights and struggle for survival will be specified. Also inferior women of Mexican American are at the centre. In the Mexico, Sandra Cisneros one of famous novel House on Mango Street is being taught at high school level. Works on INFLIBNET like:

"Undefined Boundaries of Self: Gender, culture and Resistance in selected works of Sandra Cisneros."

-"A space of one's Own a select study of Sandra Cisneros Fiction and Poetry."

-Sandra Cisneros in the Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Fiction.vol.2"

White Americans dominates to Mexican- American. a dominant country is a powerful in social, economic and political things. It establishes an individual group. As per purpose to ruling over dominate small groups. Dominant culture people promote their ideas, laws and values through media and make suppression of minority or subcultures. Cisneros has mentioned suppression of Chicanos through her characters. Powerful countries Dominances have been observed in languages and regions.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims and objectives of proposed research are as follows:

-To analyze, how colonized people resisted culturally in the establishment of a colonial society.

-To study, how the colonizers developed their postcolonial identity.

-To study socio-economic culture and political injustice against the minority people.

-To analyze postcolonial aspects and cultural dominances through Sandra Cisneros' fiction.

-To study feeling of migrate people like Mexican American Chicanos connection with their mother nation.

-To analyze, how gender, class, race function in colonial and postcolonial discourse.

-postcolonial feminists share a desire to go beyond simply analyzing the impacts of patriarchy, gender inequality and sexual exploitation.

-the study of postcolonial is used to signify a position against imperialism. In the past and present era, western ways of knowledge production with help of media. It becomes the objects of study in this proposed research.

HYPOTHESIS:

This research presents some specific ideas, critical statement about the Chicana literature. This study explains how American minority's countries literature comes in a postcolonial literature. It's an attempt to study issues of minority people like Mexican American of race, gender, ethnicity dependent on American identity. The present work tries to study meaning of home, belongings, crossing boundaries and cultural expectations of woman. The woman character in Cisneros' works represents the reality of women in American-Mexican society. It is hypothesized that and also it's try to find out place Decolonized people with the comparison of colonizers and respect as well. The existence of minority people like Chicano's in American - Mexican countries in postcolonial culture. It's an attempt to observe that study and interaction between European nations and the societies they colonized in modern period throughout the world.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The study aims at analyzing the works of Sandra Cisneros' fiction. The objective of the study is to represent the existence of minority culture in a postcolonial period. There will be an analysis of American-Mexican literature with the special study of minority literature as a homeland of Chicano or Chicana writer. Sandra Cisneros is bilingual Chicana writer and her works will be analyzed through this study. The proposed research is a researchers' effort to contribute in the study of English Literature.

SCOPES AND LIMITATIONS

As we know, European nations colonized nations throughout the world. After the half of the 19^{th} century colonized people started fight against them. In postcolonial new trans-cultural forms that arise from cross cultural exchange. The social, political, religious, linguistic hybridism in postcolonial period as expressed in Cisneros' writings.

To study the subaltern theory, colonial people who have little access to their own meaning of expression depended upon languages of ruling class. Awareness of slavery, injustice, and fight for rights and struggle for survival made them to be free from restraints from European.

This research will try to posit that the application of Postcolonial theory brings to light relevant and significant aspects of Cisneros 'texts.

In fiction of Sandra Cisneros contains 'Chicano movement' as a main theme. The characters in her fiction suffer double because of having an American-Mexican identity and again as a women or female. Chicano protagonists represent themselves as critics and social protectors. The other important theme is that experience of migration and the condition of living between two cultures.

Research gap-

Though the texts by Cisneros have been analyzed from a variety of critical perspectives, the Chicano/a literature in general and Cisneros in particular has seldom been examined as a postcolonial writer. There is significant lack of scholarly writings undertaken from the Postcolonial viewpoint.

PROBABLE DATE OF RESEARCH COMPLITION:

The present research is proposed to be completed within the time limit prescribed by the University.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The proposed research work is based on Sandra Cisneros' fiction and the Postcolonial theoretical method. She is best known for her groundbreaking voice of Mexican American life in Chicago. She is an outspoken feminist.

Postcolonialism is a broader term to study and effects of colonialism on cultures and societies. So through the work of Sandra Cisneros', researcher will try to study multiethnic literature in postcolonial study. Cisneros major poems, *My Wicked Wicked Ways and Loose Woman* are simply natural in tone and lucid in language. Cisneros novels *The House on Mango Street, an Autobiography Caramelo, Women Hollering Creek and Other Short Stories, a House of My Own, Have You Seen Marie?* Women characters in these are the voices of dominated and suppressed a critical study will be carried out through the research. Descriptive and qualitative data analysis method will be used. Mostly library database method will be used throughout the whole work. The MLA methodology will strictly be followed. Library research method will be followed during the writing of this research.

Internet resources will also be used to a great extent. Primary sources and secondary sources will be used for this work. Web sources also are used.

PLAN OF THE THESIS:

1. Introduction: Life and works of Sandra Cisneros and study of Chicana or Chicano Literature

2. Study of Post colonialism and European power over the colonies.

3. Postcolonial Aspects in The Life Chicano' Mexican American People

4. Cultural Dominance on the Minority Groups with reference to Sandra Cisneros' work.

5. Transmigration's effect on The Education Of Chicanos

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Primary sources:

- Cisneros, Sandra. "A House of My Own." Vintage Books Trade Paperback, ISBN:978-0-385-35134-8
- Cisneros, Sandra. "Caramelo." Newyork: Vintage contemporaries Vintage Books a Division of Random House, Inc. ISBN 0-679-74258-1.
- Cisneros, Sandra. "Have You Seen Marie?" Newyork: Vintage contemporaries Vintage Books A Division of Random House, LLC.ISBN-978-03- 307-74386-2.
- Cisneros, Sandra. "Loose Woman." Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, ISBN: 0-679-75527-6.
- Cisneros, Sandra. "My Wicked Wicked Ways." Vintage contemporaries Vintage Books A division of Penguin Random House LLC New York, ISBN: 978-1-101-87250-5.
- Cisneros, Sandra. "The House On Mango street." Newyork: Vintage contemporaries Vintage Books A Division Of Random House, Inc.ISBN 978-0-679-73477-2
- Cisneros, Sandra. "Vintage Cisneros." Newyork: ISBN 978-1-4000-3405-5.

- Cisneros, Sandra. “Woman Hollering Creek And Other Stories.” Newyork:Vintage contemporaries Vintage Books A Division of Random House, Inc.ISBN

Secondary sources:

- A Space of one’s owns a select study of Sandra Cisneros Fiction short fiction and Poetry by Daphinda F.War.
- Brackett, Virginia. “Sandra Cisneros.” In the Encyclopedia of Twentienth – Century fiction.vol.2 Twentieth century American Fiction.
- Bloom’s guides comprehensive Research & study guides.(2004) Chelsea House Publishers1974 sproul Road, Suite400Broomall:ISBN 0-7910-7565-6
- Castro, Joy. “Sandra Cisneros”, In contemporary American Women Fiction Writers; An A to Z guide.
- Cisneros Sandra: The Oxford Encyclopedia Of Children Literature.
- Day, Lisa B. “Sandra Cisneros.” In Contemporary American Women Poets: an A to Z Guide.
- Maatita, Florence “Sandra Cisneros” In Encyclopedia Motherhood.vol.1.
- Madsen, Deborah, contemporary Chicana Literature. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2000.
- Mesic, Penelope. “Sandra Cisneros.” In Contemporary Literary Criticism. Vol.69.
- Research & education Association, Inc.(1996) 61 Ethel Road west Piscataway, New Jersey 08854 United States of America. ISBN 13:978-0-87891-020-4.
- The Oxfords Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas In The United States.
- The Oxford Companion To Women’s Writing In United States (Cisneros Sandra).
- The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Literature in English.Undefined boundaries of the self; Gender and resistance in selected works of Maxine Hong Kingston and Sandra Cisneros: Alphant Trisina M.
- Quinlan, Eileen S.N.D, “Sandra Cisneros”. In catholic Women Writeres: A Bio-Bibliographical Sourcebook Edited by Marry. R.Reichardt, 5862. Westport, CT: Greenwood.2001.

Web Sources:

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/jspui/handle/10603/25782

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Cisneros

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sandra-Cisneros

https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/literature-and-arts/journalism-and-publishing-biographies/sandra-cisneros

www.sandracisneros.com

YouTube videos:

- SANDRA CISNEROS : 2020 National book Festival
- Sandra Cisneros on " A HOUSE OF MY OWN: STORIES FROM MY LIFE" at the 2015 Miami Book Fair
- 2020 National book Festival Highlights: Sandra Cisneros l national book festival

Research Student **Research Supervisor**

Jayshri Sidram Biradar Dr. M.M.Nivargi

Research Centre

P.G. Department and Research Centre in English

Mahatma Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Ahmedpur, dist-Latur, Maharashtra, India.

March 2022